



U.S. Immigration
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Enforcement

News Release

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FORMER YOUTH SOFTBALL COACH ARRESTED ON INTERNET CHILD PORN CHARGES

FRESNO, Calif. — A former Clovis youth softball coach who admitted molesting one of his nine-year-old players is due back in federal court January 21 for a preliminary hearing on charges of possessing and distributing child pornography over the Internet.

Mark McGarry, 44, was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents at his home January 6 and made his initial court appearance the following day. A federal judge ordered McGarry held without bond.

The investigation into McGarry began after the Fresno County Sheriff's Department received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Based on that information, ICE agents and the Sheriff's Department obtained a search warrant for McGarry's Fresno home. There, officers found hundreds of images of child pornography, including prints hidden in a mattress. On McGarry's desktop computer, the agents discovered more than 600 explicit images, including depictions of infants being sexually abused by adult men.

"Those who trade in the exploitation of children should no longer expect distance or the anonymity of cyberspace to protect them," said Scott Brown, resident agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Fresno. "ICE is using all of its law enforcement authorities to combat this heinous behavior both here and abroad."

McGarry faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison if convicted of the federal charges lodged against him. In addition, the Clovis Police Department is now investigating allegations that the former softball coach molested a pre-teen girl who formerly played on one of his teams.

McGarry's arrest is part of Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE enforcement initiative to investigate, arrest and, in the case of foreign nationals, deport child sex predators. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,700 individuals nationwide, including nearly 1,200 in California.

ICE has established a toll-free number for the public to report illegal activity, including information about child sex offenders and others who put children at risk. The number, 1-866-DHS-2ICE, is monitored 24 hours a day.

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